

Collection 005 Change Summary for MODIS Atmosphere Level-3 Products

by Paul A Hubanks (21 March 2005)

The Collection 005 Level-3 operational software contains several significant software modifications (bug fixes) and numerous (extensive) parameter/statistic changes. Due to the massiveness and complexity of the total change, the suite of L3 software was delivered in four stages during the last half of calendar year 2003.

It should be noted that *no* MOD_PR08D (daily), E (eight-day), or M (monthly) specific software modifications were implemented, however several bug fixes made to the “upstream” version of the MODIS Atmosphere L3 Tiling code (MOD_PR08T) will propagate through to, and fix isolated data errors in, all the L3 distributed products: daily, eight-day, and monthly (08_D3, 08_E3, and 08_M3, respectively).

Software Changes:

Software changes were implemented to fix 3 general errors: **1.)** A Joint Histogram statistic binning error that occurs when a L2 data point falls exactly on any bin boundary, **2.)** A Histogram statistic computational error that occurs for parameters where no QA exists or is passed (an event isolated to the Cloud Top Property histograms), and **3.)** Correcting the Pixel Count statistic fill value (changing from 0 to the standard fill of -9999).

A more detailed description of each bug and an outline of specific code changes made to the MODIS Atmosphere L3 Tiling code to correct each of these bugs, follows:

- ***Joint Histogram Statistic binning error.*** Corrected the Joint Histogram binning logic in subroutine ComputeJointPDFCounts_OneBox (a routine in ComputeStatistics.f90). The old incorrect logic was double counting L2 pixels that fell exactly on any joint histogram bin boundary. In other words, a single L2 pixel that fell on a joint histogram bin boundary was causing the counter to increment in both adjacent bins – therefore this coding error will only show itself when L2 data points fall exactly on specified joint histogram bin boundaries. Generally this causes an error in the counts of 0 to 5%; however in some very isolated (few) parameters/bins, errors in counts did reach as high as 50%.
- ***Cloud Top Properties Histogram Statistic computation error.*** Modification to call Histogram computation routines with QA only when QA is set and/or needed. Without this modification some 06_CT (cloud top properties) histogram statistics contain slight errors. (Errors are on the order of 5-10% in roughly 5% of the L3 grid cells for 06_CT (cloud top properties) marginal histograms only). An additional modification was made related to this problem, to initialize QA arrays with 0's (the default (fill) QA value). This is needed for joint histograms made purely with 06_CT parameters since UW does not rigorously set QA (Cloud Top Property QA appears to be set to 7, an invalid QA value, in all L2 (input) granules).
- ***Pixel Count Statistic fill value correction.*** Changed the fill value in all Pixel Count SDS's from 0 to the standard fill value of -9999. This correction was done to make the fill region of the PixelCount statistics/images consistent with other statistics (SDS's). The specific software changes made were: Corrected the logic in subroutine ComputeFraction (a routine in ComputeStatistics.f90) to assign a fill value to PixelCount statistic where the Fraction statistic is set to fill. An identical bug fix was implemented for the parallel case of PixelCounts computed with simple statistics. Corrected the logic in subroutine ComputeSimpleStatsNoQA_OneBox (a routine in ComputeStatistics.f90) to assign a fill value to PixelCount statistic where other statistics (Mean, Minimum, Maximum, StandardDeviation) are set to fill.
- ***Added Uncertainty Statistic Computation.*** The PGE69 (five-degree tiling), PGE56 (daily), PGE70 (eight-day), and PGE57 (monthly) packages were modified to add a new statistical computation called "Uncertainty" - a new innovative measurement of the computed uncertainty in various L3 (gridded) mean Cloud Optical Property parameters (Cloud Optical Thickness, Cloud Effective Radius, and Cloud Water Path). This new statistic, derived from Level-2 (L2) pixel-level uncertainties, is considered an important enhancement to clarify results and improve scientific conclusions drawn from intra-instrument comparisons of these key Cloud Optical Property parameters. Four “flavors” of this statistic will be computed in the L3 suite:
 - The regular unweighted uncertainty, noted by an SDS suffix of "Mean_Uncertainty"
 - The QA confidence weighted uncertainty, noted by an SDS suffix of "QA_Mean_Uncertainty"
 - The regular unweighted log uncertainty, noted by an SDS suffix of "Log_Mean_Uncertainty"
 - The QA confidence weighted log uncertainty, note by an SDS suffix of 'QA_Log_Mean_Uncertainty'.
- ***Added an input data screen for the Log_Mean and Log_Standard_Deviation computations.*** These statistics are provided only for the parameters of Cloud Optical Thickness (Tau) field. Due to a digitization anomaly in the upstream Level 2 Cloud Optical Properties algorithm, small but finite L2 values are truncated to zero and propagated into the Level 3 code. These 0 values represent a clear scene, but they are now

trapped by the L3 code and replaced by the smallest non-zero Tau (0.01) that can be stored in the L2 file. This adjustment allows the Level 3 code to recognize very thin clouds and represent them with Cloud Optical Thicknesses values closely approximating the “digitized” values lost at L2. It should be noted that a late Collection 005 change was implemented in the 06_OD (L2 Optical Properties algorithm) removing this digitization error in the upstream data; therefore making this change in the L3 code unnecessary, however the L3 code was delivered prior to this L2 change being made.

Parameter (SDS) Changes:

Numerous changes in the science product, via modifications to product CDL file specification and HDF template (structure) file, were made. Unless otherwise specified, these changes apply to all distributed L3 products (Daily, Eight-Day, and Monthly).

Most of the changes occurred in the Cloud Optical Properties part of Cloud (06_L2) derived parameters; and secondarily to the Aerosol (04_L2) derived parameters. These changes included:

Changes to Aerosol Product (04_L2) derived parameters:

- Corrected the local attributes of two recently added Aerosol-derived parameters:
 - Aerosol_Cloud_Mask_Cloud_Fraction_Land
 - Aerosol_Cloud_Mask_Cloud_Fraction_OceanThe local attributes were changed to reflect changes in the 04_L2 HDF input file where numbers were modified to be stored at true unit less fractions that range from 0 to 1, instead of percent fractions that range from 0 to 100. The scale factor and valid range was modified in L3 to maximize the number of significant digits stored.
- Added Aerosol_Cloud_Mask_Cloud_Fraction(_Land & _Ocean).
- Added Number_Pixels_Used(_Land & _Ocean) for Aerosol retrievals.
- Clarified Optical_Depth_by_models_ocean longname description to include a key to the 9 aerosol type models.
- Deleted all Aerosol Flux parameters.

Changes to Cloud Product (06_L2) Optical Properties Process (06_OD) derived parameters:

- Added a new joint histogram Optical Properties Cloud Phase vs. Cloud Top Temperature for single-layer clouds only. The new SDS is called Cloud_Phase_Optical_Properties1L_Joint_Histogram_vs_Temperature. Note that the convention of using "_1L_" in the SDS name to denote single layer clouds was broken here due to a SDS-name length limit of 63 characters.
- Added a new joint histogram Cloud Optical Thickness vs. Cloud Top Pressure (for combined phase clouds). The new SDS uses histogram bins already in use for ISCCP data and was devised so that comparisons with that data are easier. The new SDS is called Cloud_Optical_Thickness_ISCCP_Joint_Histogram_vs_Pressure.
- Added three new joint histogram statistics (SDS's):
 - Cloud_Phase_Optical_Properties_Joint_Histogram_vs_Temperature
 - Cloud_Phase_Infrared_Day_Joint_Histogram_vs_Temperature
 - Cloud_Phase_Infrared_Night_Joint_Histogram_vs_Temperature
- Added four new parameters. Each of these parameters has two SDS's associated: Fraction and Pixel_Counts:
 - ML_Fraction_Liquid
 - ML_Fraction_Ice
 - ML_Fraction_Undetermined
 - ML_Fraction_Combined
- Consolidated the bins in the Cloud_Phase_Infrared histograms from 7 to 5. The old 7 bin specification included two bins that are no longer being used in the L2 Cloud Phase Infrared input data. The new 5 bin categories are: Clear, Liquid Water Clouds, Ice Clouds, Mixed Phase Clouds, and Undetermined Phase Clouds (in that order).
- Updated numerous Optical Property QA Flags to reflect updates to the 06_L2 input HDF product file.
- Added four new parameters needed to properly weight numerous Optical Property SDS's in the Eight Day and Monthly L3 products. The new parameters are:
 - Cloud_Fraction_1L_Liquid
 - Cloud_Fraction_1L_Ice
 - Cloud_Fraction_1621_Liquid

- Cloud_Fraction_1621_Ice

- Corrected the "Weighting_Parameter_Dataset" in numerous Eight-day and Monthly Optical Property parameters. This was needed due to the implementation of numerous SDS name changes in the upstream Daily HDF product.
- Deleted three Optical Property joint histograms (vs. Effective Emissivity).
- Added four Optical Property joint histograms (vs. Cloud_Top_Pressure).
- Clarified High_Cloud_Fraction and Cirrus_Fraction_Infrared longname description.
- Clarified Atmospheric_Water_Vapor longname description (Atmospheric pressure-levels for “high” and “low” were defined).
- Clarified Water_Vapor_Near_Infrared longname description.
- Corrected Cloud_Water_Path valid ranges.
- The following parameter name changes were implemented in Cloud Optical Property derived parameters:
 - Changed all _Water SDS names to _Liquid (denoting liquid water clouds)
 - Changed Successful_(Phase)_Cloud_Retrieval_Fraction SDS names to Cloud_Fraction_(Phase)
 - Changed Water_Path SDS names to Cloud_Water_Path
- Added four new primary cloud optical property retrieval joint histograms (Tau and Re vs. Cloud_Top_Pressure).
- Added three new single layer clouds only joint histograms made from the primary cloud optical property retrieval parameters.
- Added supplementary 1.6/2.1 micron cloud optical property retrieval Tau, Re, WP statistics (6 new parameters).
- Added two new 1.6/2.1 micron cloud optical property retrieval joint histograms.
- Deleted three cloud optical property joint histograms (Tau and Re vs. Cloud_Effective_Emissivity).
- Added Tau, Re, WP statistics for single layer water and ice clouds only (6 new parameters).
- Added multilayer cloud fractions aggregated by phase (4 new parameters).
- Clarified all Cloud Optical Property longnames.
- Added 28 new Uncertainty SDS's. These new statistics are only added to various Cloud Optical Property (06_OD) derived parameters.
- Adjusted the valid range of Cloud Effective Radius Ice from 6-60 to 5-90. This was necessary due to the implementation of a new ice library in the upstream 06_L2 Cloud Optical Properties algorithm. This expanded range of valid values required an additional (new) "high" (60-90 micron) bin to be added to a number of pre-existing histograms and joint histograms; and also required an adjustment of the "low" bin to range down to 5 microns (from 6). Parallel changes were also required in the Cloud Water Path Ice histograms, whose values depend on the Cloud Effective Radius Ice parameter. This change also required an adjustment to the "valid_range" and "long_name" local attribute of numerous Cloud Optical Property derived SDS's.

A Summary Table

Although written out in the *bulleted* listing above, an alternate view of the overall parameter and SDS changes are displayed in the table below. The table highlights specific changes to the parameter and SDS list in the MODIS Atmosphere L3 daily (08_D3) product. Cells in the table highlighted in *green* show new parameters and/or SDS's added for Collection 005. Parameter cells highlighted in *orange* show where parameter name changes were implemented. Cells highlighted in *red* show parameters and/or SDS's that were deleted for Collection 005. The *blue* highlighted column shows a potential new statistic that was discussed during the delivery period, but not implemented for Collection 005 - this new statistic may be implemented in the future.

Note that the list of changes in parameters and SDS's for the eight-day and monthly products are nearly identical to the daily product, so for simplicity, only the daily list is shown here.

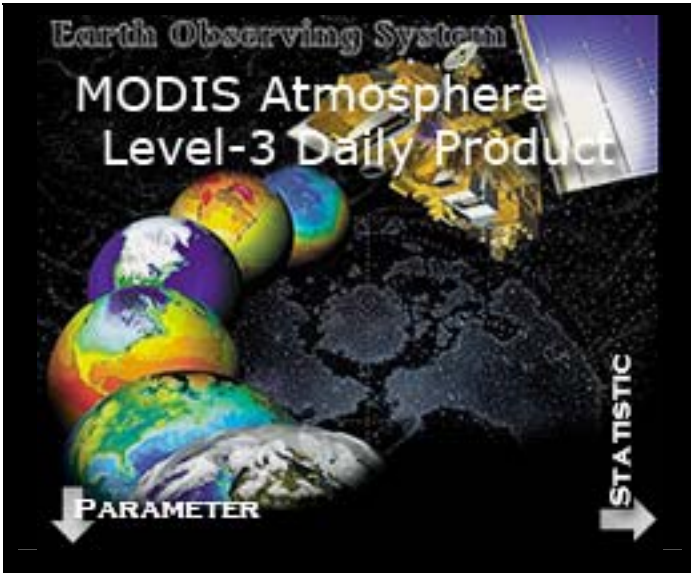
Specific SDS names can be determined by combining the parameter name with the statistic name where each dot in the table occurs. For example, the first dot in the table represents the SDS Scattering_Angle_Mean.

L3 Daily Global (08_D3) Statistics
Collection 005 Updates

 = Added

 = Renamed

 = Deleted



Mean
Standard_Deviation
Minimum
Maximum
QA_Mean
QA_Standard_Deviation
Histogram_Counts (n)
Confidence_Histogram (4)
Fraction
Pixel_Counts
Mean_Uncertainty
QA_Mean_Uncertainty
Log_Mean_Uncertainty
QA_Log_Mean_Uncertainty
Log_Mean
Log_Standard_Deviation
QA_Log_Mean
QA_Log_Standard_Deviation
Regression_Slope
Regression_Intercept
Regression_R-Squared
Regression_Mean_Square_Error
Joint_Histogram_vs_Effect_Radius (nxn)
Joint_Histogram_vs_Temperature (nxn)
Joint_Histogram_vs_Emissivity (nxn)
Joint_Histogram_vs_Pressure (nxn)

Derived from L2 Aerosol (04_L2)

Combined Land & Ocean

[illegible]

Land Only

[illegible]

Ocean Only

[illegible]

Derived from L2 Water Vapor (05_L2)

[illegible]

Derived from L2 Cloud (06_L2)																																	
Cirrus Detection																																	
39. Cirrus_Reflectance	•	•	•	•	•	•	•																										
40. Cirrus_Fraction_SWIR									•	•																							
Cloud Top Properties																																	
41. Cloud_Top_Pressure	•	•	•	•			•			•																				•			
42. Cloud_Top_Pressure_Day	•	•	•	•			•			•																				•			
43. Cloud_Top_Pressure_Night	•	•	•	•			•			•																				•			
44. Cloud_Top_Temperature	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
45. Cloud_Top_Temperature_Day	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
46. Cloud_Top_Temperature_Night	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
47. Cloud_Effective_Emissivity	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
48. Cloud_Effective_Emissivity_Day	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
49. Cloud_Effective_Emissivity_Night	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
50. Cloud_Fraction	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
51. Cloud_Fraction_Day	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
52. Cloud_Fraction_Night	•	•	•	•			•			•																							
53. Cirrus_Fraction_Infrared									•	•																							
54. High_Cloud_Fraction_Infrared									•	•																							
55. Cloud_Phase_Infrared							•																										
56. Cloud_Phase_Infrared_Day							•																							•			
57. Cloud_Phase_Infrared_Night							•																							•			
Cloud Optical Properties (Primary Retrieval)																																	
58. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_Liquid	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
59. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_Ice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
60. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_Undetermined	•	•	•	•	•	•												•	•	•	•												
61. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_Combined	•	•	•	•	•	•												•	•	•	•												
62. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_ISCCP ⁸																															•		
63. Cloud_Effective_Radius_Liquid	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•																	•	•	•	•	
64. Cloud_Effective_Radius_Ice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•																	•	•	•	•	
65. Cloud_Effective_Radius_Undetermined	•	•	•	•	•	•																											
66. Cloud_Effective_Radius_Combined	•	•	•	•	•	•																											
67. Cloud_Water_Path_Liquid	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•																					
68. Cloud_Water_Path_Ice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•																					
69. Cloud_Water_Path_Undetermined	•	•	•	•	•	•																											
70. Cloud_Water_Path_Combined	•	•	•	•	•	•																											
71. Cloud_Phase_Optical_Properties																														•			
(Primary Cloud Fraction)																																	
72. Cloud_Fraction_Liquid										•	•																						
73. Cloud_Fraction_Ice										•	•																						
74. Cloud_Fraction_Undetermined										•	•																						
75. Cloud_Fraction_Combined										•	•																						
(Primary Retrieval Single-Layer Clouds only)																																	
76. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_1L_Liquid ⁴	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																	•				
77. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_1L_Ice ⁵	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																	•		•		
78. Cloud_Effective_Radius_1L_Liquid	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																					
79. Cloud_Effective_Radius_1L_Ice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																					
80. Cloud_Water_Path_1L_Liquid	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																					
81. Cloud_Water_Path_1L_Ice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•																					
82. Cloud_Phase_Optical_Properties1L																														•			
(Single-Layer Cloud Fraction)																																	
83. Cloud_Fraction_1L_Liquid										•	•																						
84. Cloud_Fraction_1L_Ice										•	•																						
(Multi-Layer Cloud Fraction)																																	
85. Cloud_Fraction_ML_Liquid										•	•																						
86. Cloud_Fraction_ML_Ice										•	•																						
87. Cloud_Fraction_ML_Undetermined										•	•																						
88. Cloud_Fraction_ML_Combined										•	•																						
(Ratio of Multi-Layer Clouds to All-Layer Clouds by Phase)																																	
89. ML_Fraction_Liquid										•	•																						
90. ML_Fraction_Ice										•	•																						
91. ML_Fraction_Undetermined										•	•																						
92. ML_Fraction_Combind										•	•																						
(Supplementary 1.6/2.1 Retrieval)																																	
93. Cloud_Optical_Thickness_1621_Liquid ⁶	•	•	•	•	•	•	•																						•				

